

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 PM-07 NSC-07 SS-20 L-03

DRC-01 /098 W

----- 129432

R 121650Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9135

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 1623

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, DA

SUBJ: FOLKETING LIFTS MOGENS GLISTRUP'S PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY

REF: COPENHAGEN 1415

1. AS ANTICIPATED, DANISH FOLKETING VOTED JUNE 12 TO DEPRIVE ANTI-TAX LAWYER MOGENS GLISTRUP OF HIS PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY SO THAT HE CAN BE INDICTED ON CHARGES OF TAX EVASION AND FRAUD. VOTE OF 134 TO 26 LARGELY FOLLOWED PARTY LINES, ALTHOUGH TWO MEMBERS OF GLISTRUP'S OWN PROGRESS PARTY REPORTEDLY VOTED AGAINST HIM AND HE OBTAINED TWO VOTES FROM RIGHT-WING JUSTICE PARTY. VOTE FOLLOWED
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TWO HOUR DEBATE IN WHICH MOST MEMBERS OF PROGRESS PARTY, INCLUDING

GLISTRUP HIMSELF, ARGUED VIGOROUSLY AGAINST LIFTING HIS IMMUNITY ON GROUNDS THAT CHARGES WERE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. OVERWHELMING MAJORITY AGREED WITH FOLKETING CHAIRMAN KARL SKYTTE, HOWEVER, WHO DECLARED THAT QUESTION BEFORE PARLIAMENT WAS NOT GLISTRUP'S GUILT OR INNOCENCE BUT MERELY QUESTION OF WHETHER COUNTS SHOULD PROCEED TO TRY THE CASE.

SKYTTE NOTED THAT PARLIAMENT HAD NEVER FAILED TO LIFT MEMBER'S IMMUNITY WHEN COURTS HAD REQUESTED IT.

2. GLISTRUP'S SIDE OF ARGUMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE FAVORABLE COVERAGE IN LOCAL PRESS RECENTLY AND IT IS CLEAR THAT SOME OF ISSUES INVOLVED ARE HIGHLY COMPLEX. PROSPECTS ARE, THEREFORE,

THAT NO EARLY RESOLUTION OF CASE CAN BE EXPECTED AND THAT THIS CAUSE CELEBRE WILL CONTINUE TO MUDDY DANISH POLITICAL WATERS FOR SOME TIME TO COME.
CROWE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, TAX REFORMS, MEETING VOTING RECORDS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COPENH01623
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740152-0296
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740653/aaaabtnr.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: COPENHAGEN 1415
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <10 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOLKETING LIFTS MOGENS GLISTRUP'S PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, DA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005